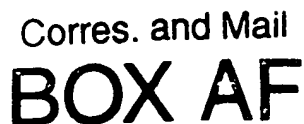


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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2673**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: LeFlore, Laurel E
Group/Art Unit: 2673

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

B. Noël Kivlin

Name of Registered Representative

September 2, 2004

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF  
JULY 2, 2004**

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of July 2, 2004.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.